

**Draft Summary of the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
January 26, 2004**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting for the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group (LUWG) on January 26, 2004 in Sacramento and Oroville (via teleconference).

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following are attachments to this summary:

Attachment 1	Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2	Meeting Attendees

Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the LUWG meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. The LUWG reviewed the desired outcomes of the meeting. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively.

Action Items – December 15, 2003 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting

A summary of the December 15, 2003 LUWG meeting is posted on the relicensing web site. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

- Action Item #LU93:** Re-write LWG-20 to separate into distinct resource action proposals.
Status: The discussion of this action item was deferred because Rob MacKenzie (Butte County) was not present at the meeting. This action item will be carried over to next month's LUWG meeting.
- Action Item #LU94:** Discuss the proposal to re-water Ruddy Creek and associated land use issues with Terry Mills (EWG RAM).
Status: Jim Martin (DWR) discussed this issue with Terry Mills, who indicated that DWR does not support the re-watering of Ruddy Creek based on environmental considerations, as well as the predominantly private lands use pattern in the area. Jim M. indicated that he would get a formal response in writing that represents DWR's position on this issue.
- Action Item #LU95:** Add Michael Pierce (Butte County) to the LUWG mailing list.
Status: Michael Pierce has been added to the LUWG mailing list.
- Action Item #LU90:** Discuss specific locations of dump areas referenced in LWG-3, including information known by DPR staff. Coordinate with Roger Calloway (DPR) prior to January field visit, and identify dump areas on map. (*Carry-over Action Item*)
Status: DWR staff visited the project area with Jim Martin (DWR) to locate and identify the various materials storage sites that are the main focus of this action item. A map has been prepared that identifies the locations of these sites (except for the river sites), which will be forwarded to the PDEA Team. The map will also be made available to the LUWG on request.

One of the larger sites in question is referred to as the "bone yard", a construction material site located just below Oroville Dam, which is visible from the Dam road.

DWR intends to periodically remove materials from this site. A vegetative screen is one way to address the visibility of the area in the future. Other sites include the maintenance yard at the Thermalito Forebay and the storage site near the North Forebay. The maintenance yard storage site is actively used by DPR and is considered a permanent facility. All of the sites need to remain open for trucks. The only identified locations that may benefit from screening are the "bone yard" and the North Forebay site.

Specific locations of the sites generally described as existing in the Feather River are not known, although they are assumed to be near the Feather River Fish Hatchery. These sites may provide critical fish habitat, and removal of material from these locations would need coordination with the Environmental Work Group. In addition, these sites may include sensitive cultural resources so coordination would also be needed with the Cultural Resources Work Group. Jim Martin will continue coordination on this resource action.

Action Item #LU91:

Set up meeting between DWR and BLM regarding transfer of federal (BLM) lands within or near the project boundary (LWG-4). (*Carry-over Action Item*)

Status:

Jim Martin updated the LUWG on his discussions with BLM regarding the land transfer project, which includes lands outside the FERC project boundary; DWR would prefer to only acquire lands within the boundary. Because there would be no change in land use, the environmental review process and level of effort may be relatively abbreviated and would utilize data generated through the relicensing process. The reasons DWR is pursuing the project include, but are not limited to: removing BLM as a mandated conditioning authority by removal of inholdings, low cost of the lands, possible expansion of recreation opportunities, opportunities for protection of Native American sites (it was noted the Cultural Resources Work Group is interested in protecting sites on these lands), and the opportunity to foster private development consistent with the adjacent land use. It was acknowledged that the timing of this acquisition would not coincide with the relicensing process. One option that was raised by the LUWG is for DPR to pursue these lands, particularly lands outside the FERC boundary. The land transfer may also be considered an ongoing project.

Study Implementation Update

Mark Greenig (EDAW) provided an update on all five Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics studies to the LUWG, including target dates for completion of final reports.

SP-L1 (Land Use)

The draft interim report for SP-L1 was distributed to the LUWG at the December meeting for review in advance of the January meeting. The LUWG discussed their comments at the meeting and provided hard copy edits to Mark for inclusion in the final report. The main points of discussion included: clarifying ownership associated with State Highways 162 and 70 in the project area; identifying local districts as public rather than private landowners; adding an "approval status" column to Table 5.5-1 which address projects on record with local planning departments; revisions to the land use/ownerships maps based on the ownership of the area that serves the model airplane club and shooting range (this area is not part of the OWA); noting that the Clay Pit SVRA is not part of the OWA; confirming at what pool elevation the land use (vegetation) mapping was conducted; and clarifying the resource extraction land use classification to include gravel mining operations. The final report will also include an opportunities and constraints analysis. The final report for SP-L1 is anticipated to be available for distribution soon possibly at the LUWG in April 2004.

SP-L2 (Land Management)

The draft interim report for SP-L2 is currently being reviewed by DWR. Once it is finalized, it will be distributed to the LUWG for review in advance of the February LUWG meeting. The report will be discussed at the February LUWG meeting and the final report will be completed soon thereafter.

SP-L3 (Comprehensive Plan Consistency)

The draft interim report for SP-L3 has been distributed to the LUWG for review and is considered complete. New plans can be included for consideration as appropriate. All plans with the potential to be applicable to the relicensing Project have been listed in the report. In the PDEA, land use-oriented plans will be handled in the Land Use section. All subsequent comprehensive plans identified will be forwarded to the appropriate technical leads and work groups for evaluation. It should be noted that FERC's official list is often incomplete and does not typically include the local plans that are applicable. The resource report only includes a list and description of applicable plans, with the consistency analysis occurring in the PDEA. It was noted that Butte County is currently updating their general plan, element by element. The final report for SP-L3 is anticipated to be completed in February/March 2004.

SP-L4 (Aesthetics)

It is anticipated that the final report for SP-L4 will be distributed to the LUWG for review in March 2004.

SP-L5 (Fuel Load Management)

The interim report for SP-L5 is complete and has been reviewed by DWR legal staff. The final report will be distributed soon possibly at the April 2004 LUWG meeting.

Report on Plenary Group Presentation

Jim Martin provided an overview of the presentation he made in December to the Plenary Group covering the resource actions that have been developed as part of the LUWG. He went through the latest version of the resource action matrix and explained the four classifications used to categorize the resource actions. The Plenary Group identified cross-resource impacts as an important issue to be addressed by the work groups.

The Plenary Group discussed the 'B' categorization of LWG-29, the proposal submitted by the Low Flow Collaborative Alliance related to lake level thresholds and associated socioeconomic effects and suggested the issue be re-considered by the LUWG. Jim Upholt (DWR) noted that this resource action is also in the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group, and has been placed on their "settlement" list. Based on this overlap, the LUWG decided to place this resource action on the "transfer" list, which will be noted on the next meeting agenda and reported back to the Plenary Group.

It was noted that the most recent version of the resource action matrix is the version dated December 15, 2003. The matrix will be revised to include the transfer of LWG-29 and revisions proposed by Rob MacKenzie related to LWG-20 when available.

The Facilitator informed the LUWG that the next Modeling Workshop has been scheduled for February 11th, 2004 in Sacramento. She encouraged everyone to attend and participate in the discussion on modeling scenario results.

Next Meeting and Next Steps

The next LUWG meeting will be held via conference call on the following date/time:

Date: Monday, February 23, 2004
Time: 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Location: Via teleconference call-in

Action Items

The following list of action items identified by the LUWG includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and item status.

Action Item #LU93: Re-write LWG-20 to separate into distinct resource action proposals.
(*Carry-over action item*)

Responsible: Rob MacKenzie (Butte County)

Due Date: February 23, 2004

Action Item #LU96: Distribute the draft interim report for SP-L2 (Land Management) in advance of the February Work Group meeting.

Responsible: DWR / Consultant Team

Due Date: February 16, 2004

Action Item #LU97: Move resource action LWG-29 to the "transfer" list and note it at the bottom of the next LUWG agenda.

Responsible: DWR

Due Date: February 23, 2004